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Galena, Illinois

December 18, 2009

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Thomas Turner
Associate Regional Counsel
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: Bautsch Gray Mine Site

Dear Mr. Turner:

This will confirm our phone conversation of this date. I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 16, 2009, and proposed ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER ON CONSENT. I advised you in our conversation that I was meeting with Tom Wienen and Lois Wienen-Knautz at the time of our phone conversation and that we had reviewed the proposed Agreement. My clients have many questions about the Agreement, particularly, the EPA requirements regarding remediation of the immediate problem, the long-term effects contemplated by this Agreement and the formulation of costs, past and future. At your suggestion, I will make contact with Mr. Zintek on Monday, December 21, 2009, and attempt to schedule a meeting with my clients.

Very truly yours,

VINCENT, ROTH & TOEPFER, P.C.

BY:

Robert R. Roth

RRR:mms

cc: Lois Wienen-Knautz
Thomas Wienen
Mr. Zintek